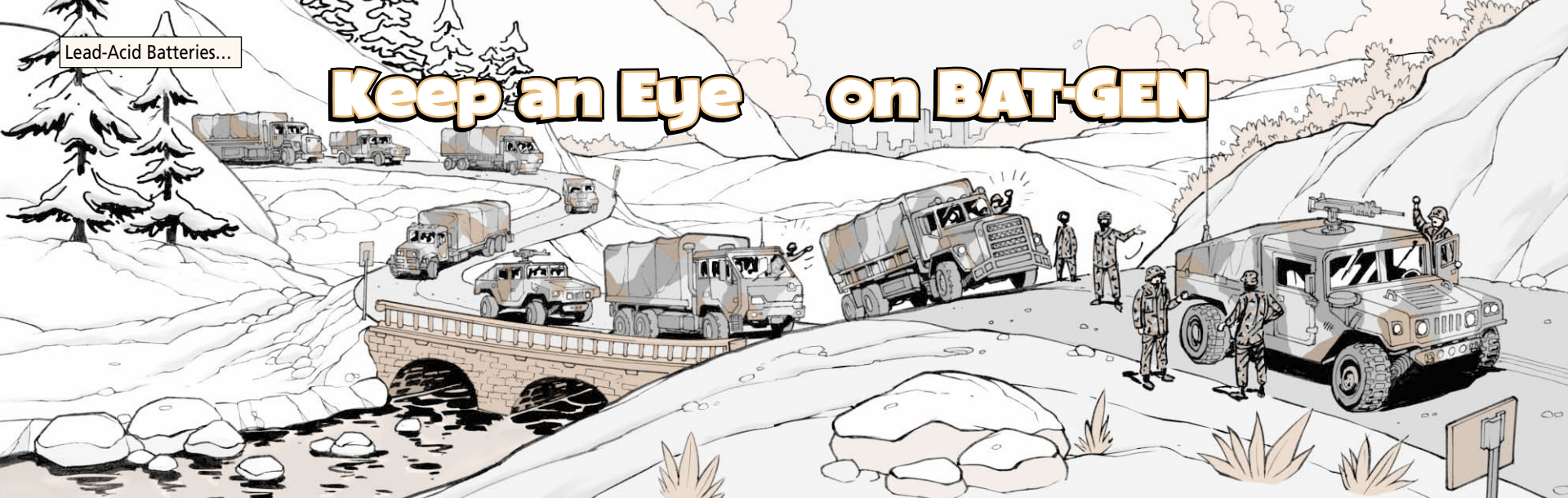


Keep an Eye on BAT-GEN



Most Army vehicles have a BAT-GEN indicator to show you operators the condition of their batteries.

But you must know how to “read” that gauge so you can tip off your mechanic to battery trouble before you get stranded in the boonies.

Here’s how:

Turn off all electrical components. Then it’s just the batteries and your alternator/generator showing up on the gauge.

Color Counts

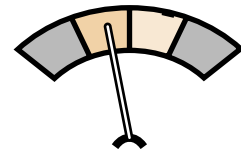
Watch the gauge when you turn the switch to ON and before you crank up the engine. The gauge needle should land in the yellow section, or between 22-26 volts. If the needle goes into the red section at the left of the gauge, your batteries are weak, defective or need charging, or there’s a short in the system.

Now, crank up the engine. If the needle hangs to the left after you’ve started the engine, one battery could have a bad cell.

After the engine starts, run it at fast idle—about 1,500 rpm. The battery charging system is working OK if the needle settles at about 28.5 volts, shown by the notch in the green section.

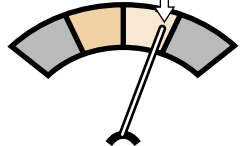
Charge is OK to start engine

Yellow: 22-26 volts



Correct charging is about 28.5 volts

Green: 26-30 volts

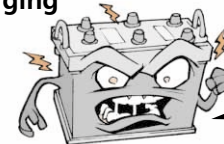


Overcharging

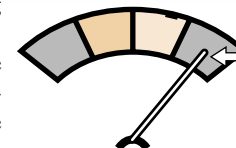
Overcharging is the culprit when the needle hangs in the red section on the right side of the gauge.

Overcharging means that water will boil out of the batteries and the plates inside can be damaged. Another clue to overcharging is a battery that often needs water.

If the gauge shows a high rate of charge after the engine’s been running for 30 minutes, there’s a good chance the batteries are being cooked to death.



OVERCHARGING!
THAT
BURNS
ME UP!



This is
OVERCHARGING

Red: 30-34 volts

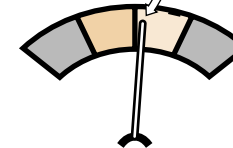
Undercharging

Undercharging is the villain when the needle settles well below that 28.5-volt mark, even though it’s still in the green.

If your BAT/GEN gauge indicates any of these problems, get your mechanic to check out the charging system.

This is
UNDERCHARGING

Green: 26-30 volts



UNDERCHARGING?
NO WONDER
I FEEL RUN
DOWN!

